

2000
TML RESOLUTION COVERSHEET

Sponsoring Entity: City of _____

Brief Background: There has been a recent explosion in the private ownership of dangerous wild animals such as lions, tigers, cougars, bears, chimpanzees, etc. This ownership has created a danger to public safety throughout the state. Within the last few years there have been numerous reported attacks by these animals on citizens (many of whom were children) resulting in severe injury and death. Texas currently has no statewide regulation of the ownership of these animals and even though some municipalities have attempted regulation through ordinances, because of the close proximity of other municipalities and unincorporated areas within counties, local regulation is insufficient. The minimum regulation needed is to require the owner of a dangerous wild animal to: register the animal with the local animal control authority; maintain liability insurance of at least \$100,000 to cover any damages to property or injury or death to persons caused by the animal; securely and humanely cage the animal; and provide adequate care for the animal.

What the Resolution is Intended to Accomplish: The resolution is intended to seek support from the Texas Municipal League to work in conjunction with other interested parties to provide changes to state law to regulate the ownership of these dangerous wild animals to ensure the public safety and the humane treatment of the animals.

Statewide Importance: Municipal regulation of these animals is sporadic and ineffective because neighboring municipalities may not effectively regulate these animals and because there is no regulation within the unincorporated areas of the state. Since these animals know no boundaries, the keeping of these animals in the vicinity of a municipality could pose a threat to the citizens within the municipality. Any state regulation of the type proposed would have a positive affect on public safety statewide.

Submitted by: Name:

Title:

City:

Telephone: ()

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**A RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING CHANGES IN STATE LAW TO
REGULATE THE OWNERSHIP OF DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS**

WHEREAS, there has been a dramatic increase in the private ownership of dangerous wild animals such as lions, tigers, cougars, jaguars, bears, chimpanzees, etc. throughout the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the unregulated ownership of these animals poses a threat to the public safety; and

WHEREAS, local regulation of the ownership of these animals is insufficient because of the inconsistent regulation and enforcement from city to city and the vast amount of unincorporated land within the state; and

WHEREAS, almost every other state within the United States has some form of regulation of the ownership of dangerous wild animals to protect the public safety and ensure the humane treatment of the animals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the delegates assembled at this 2000 Annual Conference of the Texas Municipal League that the Texas Municipal League support the statewide regulation of the ownership of dangerous wild animals by requiring, at a minimum, the owner to: register the animal; maintain liability insurance of at least \$100,000 to cover death or injury to persons or damage to property caused by the animal; house the animal in a primary enclosure of adequate size and strength; and properly care for the animal.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the membership of the Texas Municipal League this ____ day of _____, 2000, at _____, Texas.

APPROVED:

[Name]
President

ATTEST:

[Name]
Executive Director